



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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SEPTEMBER 8, 2003
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NITRO UPDATE
**SULLIVAN COUNTY FELON SENTENCED
FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARM**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Sullivan County, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for being a felon in possession of a firearm. Graves said the case, part of the district's ongoing Project Ceasefire anti-crime initiative, is the result of the work of the NITRO task force.

Jackie Lee Sizemore, 40, of Green Castle, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this morning to one year and nine months in federal prison without parole.

On June 12, 2003, **Sizemore** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Sizemore** admitted that he possessed a Mossberg 20 gauge shotgun on March 15, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Sizemore** has a 1996 criminal felony conviction for driving while intoxicated.

Sizemore was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on April 16, 2003, in Kansas City.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelsen. The case was investigated by the Sullivan County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and NITRO, the Northwest Missouri Team Response Operation. NITRO is a joint law enforcement effort by the United States Attorney's Office and federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in the 16-county northwest Missouri region.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal

prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms. Project Ceasefire has resulted in federal charges against 479 defendants, and convictions against 404 of those defendants, including 378 who pleaded guilty and 26 who were convicted at trial. A total of 352 of the 404 convicted defendants have been sentenced, and 52 currently await sentencing hearings.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

